

Manual Oil Removal/Cleaning

Objective: To remove oil with hand tools and manual labor.

Description: Removal of surface oil using hands, rakes, shovels, buckets, scrapers, sorbents, pitchforks, etc., and placing in containers. No mechanized equipment is used except for transport of collected oil and debris. Includes underwater recovery of submerged oil by divers, for example, with hand tools.

Applicable Habitat Types: Can be used on all habitat types.

When to Use: Light to moderate oiling conditions for stranded oil, or heavy oils on water or submerged on the bottom that have formed semi-solid or solid masses and that can be picked up manually.

Biological Constraints: Foot traffic over sensitive areas (wetlands, tidal pools, etc.) should be restricted or prevented. There may be periods when shoreline access should be avoided, such as during bird nesting.

Environmental Effects: Minimal, if surface disturbance by responders and waste generation is controlled.

Waste Generation: May generate significant quantities of oil mixed with sediment and debris that must be properly disposed of or treated. Decontamination of hand tools may produce oily wastewater that must be treated properly. Worker personal protective gear is usually disposed of daily or decontaminated and the resulting oily wastewater treated properly.